

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2667

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

UNCLAS MANAMA 1422

KUWAIT FOR MATTRAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : BEXP, BA

SUBJECT : UNIVERSITY OF MAINE NEAR EAST SEMINAR

REFERENCE : STATE 295849

1. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THREE INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE INTERESTING/INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS AT THE PROPOSED SEMINAR:

(A) DR. YOUSUF SHIRAWI, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN (P.O. BOX 235, MANAMA, BAHRAIN). SHIRAWI IS THE LONG-RANGE PLANNER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN; HAS LONG EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH PETROLEUM MATTERS AND IS INSTRUMENTAL IN VETTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN BAHRAIN. ARTICULATE, FRANK AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING; HE HAS A GOOD REGIONAL REPUTATION.

(B) MR. HATIM ZU'BI, LAWYER/FINANCIAL ADVISER (P.O. BOX 502, MANAMA, BAHRAI). FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE OF JORDAN, ZU'BI FUNCTIONS IN BAHRAIN AS A LEGAL ADVISER TO MANY IF NOT MOST OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FIRMS DOING BUSINESS HERE. HE HAS REGIONAL EXPERTISE IN ADDITION TO HIS INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF BAHRAINI LAW/CUSTOM IN RELATION TO BUSINESS.

(C) MR. HABIB A. KASSIM, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMY (GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MANAMA, BAHRAIN) IS ONE OF THE YOUNGER CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN WHO IS NOW SERVING AS THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN THE MINISTRY DEALING WITH COMMERCE (INCLUDING FOREIGN FIRMS).

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HE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DRAFTING RECENT ENACTMENTS GOVERNING

COMMERCIAL AGENCIES, COMPANIES (BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN) AND
BANKING.

2. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND BY SEMINAR PLANNERS THAT, ALTHOUGH
BAHRAIN IS AN OIL-PRODUCING STATE, IT IS NOT AN OIL-RICH STATE
UNLIKE MOST OF ITS GULF NEIGHBORS. THE FACT THAT BAHRAIN'S
MODEST OIL PRODUCTION HAS BEEN marginally DECLINING IN THE
PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS RESULTED IN AN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK DIFFERENT
FROM OTHERS (KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)
IN THE REGION.
BURLEIGH

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